

# The Batesburg Advocate.

VOL III

BATESBURG, S. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1903.

NO 11

## TRIAL PUT OF.

J. H. Tillman Gets a Continuance of His Case.

TWO MAIN WITNESSES A' SENT.

The State Resists the Application for Continuance, but is Overruled by the Presiding Judge Klugh.

The case against Jas. H. Tillman for the murder of N. G. Gonzales came up in the Court of General Sessions at Columbia on Wednesday, and on motion of the defence was postponed until the July term of Court. The State wishes the case to be promptly tried and insisted that the defence had not made a sufficient showing to gain a continuance.

The defence based its application for a continuance of the case, first, on the affidavit of physicians that Capt. J. A. White was too ill to attend the Court; that he was suffering from diabetes of a serious type and partial paralysis; and, second, on the affidavit that Miss Mary Julia Roper was in New York and could not be gotten here for the trial.

Capt. White in his affidavit used in the application for bail swore that R. H. Holzenback told him of a conversation with Mr. Gonzales, in which he said Mr. Gonzales had told him (Holzenback) that he had made Lieutenant-Governor Tillman "show the white feather on several occasions and when he met him he would make him show it again."

Miss Mary Julia Roper is a trained nurse and she swore in an affidavit used in the application for bail, which was declined, that while attending Mr. Gonzales' uncle she heard Mr. Gonzales say that he "had made Lieutenant-Governor Tillman show the white feather and that he would do all in his power against him and was exceedingly bitter in his denunciation of Mr. Tillman."

The defence urged that it had tried to get these witnesses, but without success.

"The State urged that the defence had not made a proper, full or satisfactory showing in its application for a continuance, and that if such a showing were made of what it was proposed to be admitted, it would be heard."

Judge Klugh decided that a sufficient showing had been made by the defence for a continuance of the case and so directed.

## PROCEEDINGS IN DETAIL.

After the routine business of the Court had been disposed of Wednesday morning, Judge Klugh said that the first case on the docket was that of "The State against James H. Tillman." As soon as this announcement was made Col. Geo. W. Croft, of counsel for the defence, arose and said:

"Before the defendant is arraigned we have a motion to make on the part of the defendant. We understand that you may please your Honor, that the State expects to try this case at the present term of Court, and we regret to say that the defendant will be compelled to ask for a continuance, because we find that two of the most material witnesses for the defence cannot attend at this term, owing to the severe sickness of one of the witnesses, J. A. White, of Edgefield, and owing to the temporary absence from the State of Miss Roper, of Spartanburg. We have the return of the sheriff, showing that one of these witnesses has been served and an attempt made to serve the other. We have also a certificate sworn to by the physician of Capt. White, of Edgefield, saying he is seriously ill and confined to his room, and it will be impractical for him to attend this Court. The return of the sheriff shows that Miss Roper is in New York. She is a citizen of this State. We are informed she is only temporarily absent from the State, and that she will be present at the next term of Court when this case will be tried. I ask your Honor's attention to the following certificate and affidavit: I will ask Mr. Nelson, who is associated with me, to read these affidavits."

Mr. Nelson read the affidavits printed below. The first affidavit was in connection with Col. White, which read:

Edgefield, S. C., April 7, 1903. This is to certify that J. A. White is suffering from diabetes, of a serious type; also suffering from partial paralysis and incontinence of urine, and confined to his room and under treatment. Butler & Patterson.

Sworn to before me April 7, 1903. J. D. Allen, J. P., E. C.

After this affidavit had been read Mr. Nelson read this endorsement on the subpoena for Miss Roper, the other witness in the case, who is wanted:

I hereby certify that Miss Julia Roper made diligent search for Miss Julia Roper and cannot find her in this county. An informed that she is in German Memorial Hospital, New York City, N. Y. John E. Verner, Sheriff, S. C., April 2, 1903.

## ANOTHER AFFIDAVIT.

State of South Carolina, County of Richland. Before me personally appeared George W. Croft, who being duly sworn, says: That he is one of the attorneys for the defendant above named. That Capt. J. A. White, a witness for the defence in the above entitled case, is, as appears by the affidavit of Butler & Patterson, physicians of the town of Edgefield, in the State aforesaid, confined to his room on account of serious illness, and will not be able to attend at the present term of this Court. That the testimony of the said witness is material to the defence and the defendant cannot go to trial in his absence. That this motion is not in-

tended for delay, but is made solely because in the opinion of deponent as attorney for defendant the said defendant cannot go safely to trial without the testimony of Capt. White. That due diligence has been used to procure the attendance of the said witness, as deponent is informed and believes that the warrant for his arrest was lodged with the sheriff of Richland County by P. H. Nelson, Esq., also one of the attorneys for the defendant, on the 21st day of March, 1903. That Miss Mary Julia Roper is also a material witness for the defence, and is also absent. That deponent is informed and believes that a warrant for the arrest of the said witness was lodged with the sheriff of Richland County on the 2nd day of April, 1903, which said warrant was sent by the said sheriff of Richland County to the sheriff of Spartanburg County, Miss Roper being a resident of city of Spartanburg, and the said warrant was returned on the 4th day of April, 1903, endorsed N. E. I. That deponent has been informed that Miss Roper is temporarily in the city of New York, and has received assurances that she will return to the State, and be present to testify at the next term of this Court. That due diligence has been used to procure the attendance of this witness, and in deponent's opinion his client cannot safely go to trial in her absence, and this motion is not made for delay, but solely for the reason above stated. G. W. Croft.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of April, 1903.

P. H. Nelson, Notary Public for South Carolina.

THE STATE OBJECTS.

Solicitor Thurmond promptly arose and said: "The rule of Court prescribes how continuances will be secured and we submit these affidavits do not come up to the rule of Court. If the rule is complied with it may be that the State will be in a position to enable the defendant to proceed to trial any way at this term of Court. We ask that the rule of Court be complied with."

Col. Andrew Crawford, of counsel for the State, added: "It seems to me, under the rule as last amended, that even where the rule is complied with, the essential feature of which is to set forth all the facts, then the affidavit is submitted to counsel on the other side, and if counsel agrees to accept the statements contained in the affidavits as statements that would be made if the witnesses were present, then the case will go on."

"Now, in this particular instance our friends have failed to make known to us what facts they propose to prove by these two witnesses. In that particular their showing is absolutely defective."

"I submit we are entitled to have this case on, first, because there is not a compliance with the rule, and if the compliance is made, we can admit that, if the witnesses were present, they would stand, they would swear to the things, and matters set forth in the affidavit, and then the case will proceed."

STILL ANOTHER AFFIDAVIT.

Mr. P. H. Nelson said: "We thought our friends were so thoroughly advised of what the witnesses would testify to in the main, (their affidavits having been used and copies having been furnished some time ago) we did not think it necessary to embody in a separate affidavit what we expect them to testify on the trial. Anticipating that point might be made we have prepared this affidavit from Mr. Croft."

"State of South Carolina, county of Richland, George W. Croft, being duly sworn, says: That in addition to the affidavit of Miss Mary Julia Roper, deponent is informed and he believes that she, if present, would testify to the matters therein stated, and deponent is informed that she would testify to threats and matters more pointed even than those therein set forth."

"That J. H. White, if present, would testify to what is contained in the affidavit of R. H. Holzenback, referring to the conversation between him and N. G. Gonzales, and that he communicated the same to the defendant."

"Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of April, 1903."

G. W. Croft.

P. H. Nelson, Notary Public for South Carolina.

THE RULE OF COURT.

The rule of Court involving continuances in such cases was read to the Court as follows:

Motions for Continuance: No motion for the postponement of trial beyond the term, either in Common Pleas or General Sessions, shall be granted on account of the witness, without the oath of the party, his counsel, or either to the following effect, to wit: That the testimony of the witness is material to support the action or defence of the party moving; that the motion is not intended for delay, but is made solely because he cannot go safely to trial without such testimony; that he has made use of diligence to procure the testimony of the witness, or of such other circumstances as will satisfy the Court that his motion is not intended for delay. In all such cases where a writ of subpoena has been issued the original shall be produced, with proof of service, or the reason why not served, under oath, in addition to the foregoing, with additional proof of the loss of the original subpoena. A party applying for such postponement on account of the absence of a witness shall set forth under oath, in addition to the foregoing matters, what fact or facts he believes the witness would testify to and the grounds of such belief."

THE LAWYERS SPEAR.

Counsel contended over the matter for some time.

Mr. Thurmond and Col. Crawford contended that the defence had utterly failed to comply with the rule in

any particular and that it had not been shown what the witnesses would have testified to had they been present.

The defence said among other things that none of counsel had ever yet seen Miss Roper and that they did not know exactly what she would testify to; that she had written a letter to members of Mr. Tillman's family, in which she made mention of additional threats, and that they were not fully advised as to this witness, and they further contended that no harm could come to the State by delay, as the defendant was in jail.

Col. Crawford contended that the view expressed by the Judges at a recent meeting was to require a compliance with the rule as to avoid frequent continuances, and that the rule contemplated that the opposing side might be fully advised of what was sought to be proven by absent witnesses, that all of this might be agreed to and the case not delayed. He went on to urge that the affidavits submitted, and the motion, as made, did not comply with the rule in any way.

Col. Croft contended that the defence had shown due diligence in its efforts to get the two witnesses, and that it was an utter surprise to counsel that Miss Roper was not in the State, and that she could not be present for the trial. He had the information that Miss Roper would, if present, testify to other things than were brought out in the affidavit used at the hearing for bail, and that counsel did know from information that she would testify as to other threats. He then emphasized the value of having a witness on the stand and having the jury judge of the credibility of the witness by seeing the person on the stand.

Mr. Crawford insisted that it must at least be shown what these absent witnesses would prove or what they were expected to show. Judge Klugh thought that this position was correct.

Col. Nelson said he thought the affidavits of the witnesses in question were familiar to the counsel and others, but at the instance of the Court he brought the affidavits used at the time of the application for bail and read these to the Court. At the time of the application Capt. White made the following affidavit as to what evidence was to be expected of him:

WHAT WHITE SWears TO.

South Carolina, County of Richland: Personally appeared J. A. White, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That he recalls the event and circumstances mentioned in the statement of R. H. Holzenback. That he is kept in the Senate of South Carolina. That at all times during the session of the Senate he is in the lobby of the Senate. That on Tuesday or Wednesday before the shooting of N. G. Gonzales occurred he was sitting by the front door of the lobby talking to Richard Holzenback; that to the best of his recollection it was Tuesday. That said man with whom the deponent conversed was clean shaven and wore glasses, and he turned to go off deponent asked him who he was and was informed by him that it was N. G. Gonzales. That after the deponent's last remark the said Gonzales turned off abruptly and deponent does not know whether he walked into the Senate chamber or into the corridor. That the deponent communicated to the said Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate the statement either on the afternoon of Tuesday or Wednesday, he cannot recall, which, preceding the shooting on Thursday. That deponent is a Confederate veteran, having served four years in that dreadful struggle. That he was also county commissioner of Edgefield County for a like period, and that he is an uncle by marriage of Solicitor Thurmond and of the Hon. W. A. Strom, late a member of the House of Representatives from Edgefield County. J. A. White.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th February, 1903.

Robert Moorman, (L. S.) Magistrate Richland County.

HOLZENBACK'S TESTIMONY.

The defence also submitted the affidavit of Richard Holzenback, who it will be remembered testified in fact as follows: That while he was in the State House a day or two before the unfortunate occurrence which resulted in the death of N. G. Gonzales he was talking to Capt. J. A. White, who was keeper of one of the committee rooms in the Senate end of the Capitol building; that while he was there N. G. Gonzales, whom the deponent had known for two years, came in the lobby of the Senate chamber and asked Capt. White where his boss was. Capt. White replied, "I have no boss," and he (Gonzales) said he meant the Lieutenant Governor, and said, "I suppose he is neglecting his duty as he always is." Lieutenant Tillman was not presiding at that time, but Governor Sheppard was in the chair. Gonzales said to Capt. White, he had made him, referring to Lieutenant Governor Tillman, show the white feather on several occasions, and when he met him he would make him show it again. Capt. White made some reply and shortly afterwards Mr. Gonzales went off. I do not recollect whether he went in the Senate chamber or out of the State House.

WHAT MISS ROOPER SAYS.

The affidavit of Miss Roper, who is the other absent witness, was read. State of South Carolina, county of Spartanburg: Miss Mary Julia Roper, being duly sworn, says: That she is by profession a trained nurse and is engaged now as such.

That, during the summer of 1902 she was nursing Capt. Ralph Elliott, in Spartanburg, S. C., who was then sick, suffering from dysentery.

That his nephew, N. G. Gonzales, came to see him during his illness and deponent saw Mr. Gonzales frequently. That in discussing the differences between Lieutenant Governor Tillman and himself Mr. Gonzales said on more than one occasion to deponent that he, Gonzales, had made Lieutenant Governor Tillman show the white feather, and that he would do all in his power against him, and was exceedingly bitter.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.]

## WILL SOON HANG.

The Remarkable Case of a Georgetown Negro Murderer.

BROWNFIELD, A BLACK BARBER

Has Been Saved for Three Years from the Gallows, Attempted Suicide Recently, But Courage Failed.

One of the most unique cases in the annals of crime exists in Georgetown. John Brownfield, the negro barber who killed J. C. Scurry, a white man, on Sept. 29, 1900, is still alive and confined in the county jail, although once tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged on Dec. 27, 1900.

The case has excited widespread interest and at various times occupied the attention of every court from the humble magistrate's to the United States supreme court at Washington and, although the verdict of every tribunal has been against the negro, yet he is still living and no date set for his execution. Sheriff McKelthen of that county readily assented to allow the prisoner to be seen in his cell.

The clanging of the massive iron doors as the bolts were thrown back aroused the prisoner from his cell in his cell where he had been quietly conversing with his fellow prisoners through the bars. He immediately put on his hat and stood in the open door, apparently ready to meet any fate that might befall him. Thenegro is about 25 years old, tall erect and his long confinement of nearly 31 months has reduced his weight to about 125 pounds. In answer to the question if he still felt confident that he would yet escape the gallows, he replied:

"My chances now look pretty slim, and I am the victim of Caucasian prejudice. I ought not to be hanged, for at the time of the trouble I was in my barber shop when Mr. Scurry came in to collect delinquent taxes, under an execution issued by Magistrate Hucks. Scurry told me that if I did not pay taxes he would arrest me and I told him that he could not arrest me without a warrant."

"I was not responsible for anything else that happened. My attorney Mr. Mitchell—a Charleston negro lawyer—has written me saying that a petition to the governor is circulated asking him to commute my sentence to life imprisonment."

This is about the substance of his story. Noting that he kept his hat pulled down over his eyes, he was asked to take it off, but he drew him self up and said: "No sir, I won't do that." The sheriff, who was standing near, was appealed to by him, and he made the same reply to him, but he instantly it was snatched from his head and in the top was pasted a small mirror, in which, perhaps, he often admired himself, for the bump of self-esteem is very prominent on his cranium.

John Brownfield killed J. C. Scurry on Sept. 29, 1900, and was placed in jail the same afternoon. The next night a race riot at the jail was averted only by the cool, decisive action of the white citizens. The local military companies were called out and the governor appealed to for more troops. One company from Sumter and two from Charleston were sent here, for which the legislature at its next session had to appropriate about \$2,700.

The ringleaders were arrested and heavily fined, one of them serving a sentence of one year in the penitentiary. In November of the same year Brownfield was tried before Judge Gary and sentenced to be hanged the next month, Dec. 27. His negro attorneys appealed to the State supreme court, who several months afterwards confirmed the verdict of the circuit court. While the case was pending in the supreme court, a little more than two years ago, Brownfield burrowed a hole through the brick wall of the jail with the foot of a stove and made his escape, but was recaptured within an hour. As soon as he learned that the State supreme court had decided against him he attempted to end his miserable existence by taking an overdose of laudanum, but prompt medical aid saved his life.

His attorneys carried the appeal to the United States supreme court on the plea that there were no negroes on the jury which convicted him, but this court, within the last month, decided against him. Every one thought that Brownfield would be resentenced by Judge Gage at the court of general sessions which adjourned at Georgetown last Saturday, but it seems that the United States supreme court, under the law, has 30 days within which to return to the State the papers in the case from which they emanate, and the allotted time will not expire until tomorrow. Hence the negro has a new lease on life until June 15th, when Judge Gary, who originally heard the case, will probably resentence him to be hanged.

Monday a week ago Brownfield swallowed a large quantity of Paris green in another attempt at suicide, but became frightened and sent for the sheriff and a physician, who again

saved his life. When asked why he made the attempt he replied: "Any kind of death is preferable to the disgrace of being hanged by the neck until dead." It is stated that his negro friends have about given up all hope, realizing that they have exhausted every means to save him.

Large sums of money have been raised in the negro churches of Georgetown county, as well as from his relatives in Columbia and Mayesville, Sumter county, the home of his wife, for by them Brownfield is regarded as the exponent of an imaginary principle. It is stated that prayers are being offered that he may die by any other method save that of a legal execution and to them is attributable the poison that has been given him on more than one occasion, but the negro is too cowardly to wait until the poison takes effect before calling for a physician. One of the direct results of the riot episode is the passing of the city and county government completely into the hands of the white people. The negroes put up tickets in both elections last year but failed to support them on the days of election. The city of Georgetown has been continuously under the mayoralty of the Hon. W. D. Morgan for the last 12 years, but the new Georgetown which has sprung into existence within the last five years, bears little resemblance to the quaint old city which formerly stood at the head of Winyah bay.—Columbia State.

## A GOOD ROADS MEETING

To Be Held in St. Louis the Latter Part of April.

The question of good roads is giving public men more to think about than anything else which has come up in the last generation. There is no denying the self-evident facts presented by those who advocate building good roads and who urge that to have bad roads is more costly and more of a tax in the end than the paying of a special tax for the purpose of building roads which will be permanent in their nature.

At the last session of the general assembly there were a number of measures introduced, some advocating a special tax, and others suggesting a local option plan such as has been adopted by special school districts—let each township vote upon the question. Others suggested a plan of issuing township bonds for the purpose of building roads.

One of the most earnest advocates of building and maintaining good roads is Governor Heyward. He has repeatedly urged the importance of this matter and is taking no little interest in the proposed good roads convention which is to be held at St. Louis on the 27th of this month. He expects to attend, if his business engagements will permit, and has been informed that President Roosevelt and the governors of a number of States will be there at that time and will make addresses.

Governor Heyward Wednesday announced the appointment of the delegates from this State to that convention, and he has selected the gentlemen named not so much because of their prominence in the good roads movement, but because he believes they will attend and will bring back to South Carolina ideas which will be of great value in the movement. Following are the delegates named:

First District—W. G. Hinson, Charleston; T. W. Williams, Moncks Corner; J. E. Moore, Walterboro; John S. J. Wimerly, St. George; J. C. Leachman, Manning.

Second District—H. G. Folk, Bamberg; Brunson Holloway, Edgefield; R. F. Crouch, Saluda; W. F. Cummings, Hampton.

Third District—J. N. Vandiver, Anderson; W. J. Stribbling, Oconee; W. T. Bowen, Easley; R. E. Hill, Abbeville; R. M. Hayes, Greenwood.

Fourth District—W. L. Mauldin, Greenville; J. P. Goodwin, Greenville; S. T. McCrary, Spartanburg; H. B. Humbert, Laurens; Macbeth Young, Union.

Fifth District—E. P. Stacy Gaffney; P. L. Hardin, Chester; T. W. Boyd, Rock Hill; John G. Mobley, Wainsboro; T. C. Cunningham, Lancaster.

Sixth District—Capt. Frank Manning, Clio; W. H. Manning, Dillon; W. A. Dowling, Darlington; J. B. McBryde, Florence; John L. Boyd, Conway.

Seventh District—F. H. Hyatt, Columbia Lewis T. Wilds, Columbia; W. H. Seal, Sumter; J. A. Banks, St. Matthews; Capt. J. H. Counts, Irmo.

## BEANS TO ORDER.

Hereafter no Chicago girl need be without a bean or an escort, unless by choice. She can now go to the telephone and order a bean for the morning, afternoon or evening, the same as she would order a block of ribbon or a bottle of pickles. And she can order just the style of bean she wants, to match her complexion or her new frock, or her "confection" or a new hat. There are to be had long beans and short, dark beans and light; lean and fat, and whiskered beans and those that are clean shaven. It is merely a case of "you pays your money and you takes your choice."

## An Inhuman Deed.

At Hardeeville, on Saturday night, the stable of Mr. Lassiter was entered by a miscreant who heartlessly mutilated and killed a valuable horse. All four legs were broken with an axe and the foreshoulders severed. The dastardly act is supposed to have been prompted by a villainous revenge

## THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER

Of an Unknown Man in the City of Charleston.

Charleston has another mysterious murder case. The Post says with a bullet hole through the head and another through the heart, the body of a well dressed, unknown young white man, about nineteen years of age, was found half buried in the marsh near Wappoo mills Friday afternoon. The body was discovered by T. Jervay, who was out in the Ashley river in his boat. The information that the body of a man had been found was communicated to Coroner O'Donnell and caused it to be removed, brought into the city and sent to the hospital. It was in a state of almost perfect preservation, showing that it had been in the water only a few days.

In the left temple was a bullet hole made by a 32 caliber pistol and the other was through his heart. Either of the wounds would have caused instant death. In his pockets were found an open case silver watch, a few pennies, a pocket comb, a number of buttons, a socket comb, a number of pistol cartridges and a newspaper clipping telling of the suicide of Frederick I. Stebbins, a Socialist who killed himself at Rochester, the early part of this month. The clipping gave the reasons for Stebbins' suicide and on the margin of the strip of paper were written these words, "I say the same, goodbye." It was believed by the coroner that the unknown young man had killed himself by shooting himself in the head and then throwing himself in the river. When the body was found Friday only one wound, that in the temple, was discovered, but when the body was stripped for a post mortem examination a bullet hole was found through his heart.

An inquest was held Saturday morning at the city hospital and a full investigation was made. The two wounds, either of which would have caused instant death, led the jury to believe that the man was murdered and thrown into the river. It is thought that the newspaper clipping with the words, "I say the same, goodbye," written on the piece of paper, was placed in his vest pocket for the purpose of covering up the crime of murder and making the crime one of suicide. The jury rendered a verdict that the deceased, unknown to them, came to his death at the hands of a party or parties unknown to the jury.

## The Old Story.

A dispatch from Manila says Captain Pershing's force captured Bacolod, Island of Mindanao, Wednesday killed a hundred Moros and wounded many others. Three Americans were wounded. Pershing's force consisted of Shaw's battalion of the 27th infantry Kilpatrick of the 15th Cavalry and Chacac's battery. Pershing was surveying the West Shore lands when the Bacolodians opposed his advance and provoked the fight. Pershing surrounded and attacked their strong hold, first shelling them and rushing his troops forward charging gallantly. After crossing the deep moat and entering the fort, the Americans engaged the Moros' bayonets against Kriess. A hundred of the defenders were killed, including the dato of Pannandungan and many were wounded. Only three Americans were wounded. After the capture of the fort it was des troysed.

## The Crazy Elder.

The State says Dr. J. W. Babcock reports little change in the condition of the Mormon elder who was given severe treatment in Williamsburg county a few days ago on account of his offering a lady of the Lake City section. The demoted elder's traveling companion has called on him here. These elders always go about in pairs. The question now arises, "What shall be done with this insane man?" He is not a citizen of this State and the law provides that the State of South Carolina shall not take care of parties in such a condition unless they have been residents for two years preceding. This was done in order to keep neighboring States from imposing upon South Carolina. As the elder is a citizen of Utah it is thought that he should be cared for by the people of that State.

## A Fatal Swim.

Mattie Lou Smith, 20 years old and "Nick" Butler, 18, were drowned Friday in the St. Johns river near the Florida East Coast railway bridge at Jacksonville. The bodies have not yet been recovered. With another woman, Pearl Say, they went to the river crabbing. The two who were drowned entered a rowboat and went to the south Jacksonville side where, after crabbing a while, they went in the river for a swim. They had not been in the water long before persons on the drawbridge heard cries for help. Two men instantly started towards them in a rowboat. Before they reach the spot they saw the woman disappear beneath the surface and an instant later the man disappeared.

## Found Murdered.

Ed Norris a notorious negro blind tiger of Greenwood was found dead in a vacant field back of his house Tuesday morning. Two jugs containing two gallons of whiskey each were found not far away. A Winchester rifle was lying by his side. There were no witnesses to the shooting, so far as known, and the whole affair is one of mystery. Ed Norris was best known as the worst blind tiger in Greenwood.

## BIG GUNS BURSTS.

A Fatal Accident on the Battleship Iowa Thursday.

A TWELVE INCH TUBE EXPLODES

Several Seamen Killed and Wounded. The Disaster Occurred During Target Practice Off Pensacola, Fla.

A disastrous explosion occurred on the battleship Iowa Thursday while the vessel was at target practice in the gulf of Mexico. The forward port 12-inch gun burst from the premature explosion of a shell, 12 feet of the piece outside the turret being demolished. Three men were killed and five injured, two seriously.

The killed are: First-class Seaman Kleie, Ordinary Seamen Percell and Gunner's Mate Berry.

The injured are: First-class Seaman Gault, Ordinary Seamen Truesdale, Brown, Mansdale and Parrucker. The men killed and injured were on the second or gun deck at mess. Three pieces of the exploded gun, each weighing over a ton, passed downward through the spear deck, falling upon the men at mess, instantly killing the three named. All of the men were horribly mutilated. The heavy missiles, after passing through the gun deck, continued down to the third deck, where they came in contact with the armored deck, the heavy steel bringing them to a stop, thus saving the engineers and firemen who were at work below. Although the upper decks were crowded with men, no one there was seriously injured.

The explosion occurred just as the mess call had been sounded. Firing was to have ceased after the shot for the dinner hour. The range had been set and the Iowa was steaming along at a speed of 12 knots an hour, when Lieut. Reed, in charge of the forward 12-inch turret, gave orders to load and fire. The time fuse was cut for the range, the piece charged, breech closed and the word given to fire. Following the report of the gun there was a smothered report as the shell exploded midway in the gun and pieces of the burst gun and shell were scattered broadcast. Three great holes were torn through the

coming up on deck, some of them and mutilated, while lying on the floor crushed almost beyond recognition were the three unfortunate men. The Massachusetts, six miles distant, was signalled for aid, and one of the cutters put off with the surgeon and assistants. The wounded men were taken to the hospital and their injuries dressed. The dead were brought to Pensacola.

Some claim the explosion was caused by a defective shell, and others think that the frequent firing of the piece at Calumet during the winter, added with the work done here during the past 10 days, strained the piece that the force of the charge burst the gun.

## A WOMAN IN BLACK.

Strange Story That Comes from the County Seat of Colleton.

A dispatch from Walterboro to The State says quite a sensation was created in that town on Thursday morning by the arrest upon a warrant issued by Magistrate J. R. Bryan of S. J. Fennel, a farmer and manufacturer of lumber, residing about six miles from the town, on charge of forgery. Being unable to give a bond of \$700 he was committed to jail.

A mysterious woman in black, described as quiet and handsome figures in the case. In fact, she is the chief actor. It is not known who she is. What is known is that she appeared at the Farmers and Merchants bank at Walterboro on March 27, presented a check for \$432, bearing the signature of W. O. Thompson, Jr., drawn upon the Bank of Hampton in favor of one of his married daughters, whom she impersonated, and received the money.

The circumstance connecting Fennel with the transaction is that he is known to have accompanied the woman from Walterboro to Hampton, conversing with her the preceding day. At Hampton she presented a check for a similar sum, but owing to some error payment was refused. He returned with her to Walterboro the same day.

Where she secured lodging for the night cannot be ascertained. Fennel admits seeing her on the train, but denies knowledge of her identity. Another mystifying feature of the case is that the woman must have known the extent of Thompson's deposit in the Bank of Hampton, and have been familiar with his signature. Thompson, who is now on a visit to Florida, might aid in clearing up the mystery of the "mysterious woman in black." Diligent efforts are being made to find out who she is and where she is.

## Died of Blood Poison.

The Columbia State says Mrs. Robert M. Anderson, who has been a citizen of that city for many years, died at her home on Price avenue Wednesday, after an illness of two weeks. While out training a vine some time ago, Mrs. Anderson got a splinter in one of her hands and through this slight wound contracted blood poison.